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REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. As a result of claim amendments and cancellations in this Response to Office Action, claims 3-34 will be pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner contended that claims 1-32 comprise two distinct inventions and requires under 35 U.S.C. § 121 that the application be restricted to one of these inventions as follows:

- I. Claims 1-2, drawn to a high 1,4-cis polybutadiene copolymer; and
- II. Claims 3-32, drawn to a method to prepare a high 1,4-cis polybutadiene copolymer.

According to the Examiner, the inventions in Groups I and II are related as product and method of making the product, and are considered distinct inventions because the claimed product can be made by another and materially different process, such as by coupling polybutadiene and polyurethane.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group II, consisting of claims 3-32, drawn to a method to prepare a high 1,4-cis polybutadiene copolymer. The claims of Group I, consisting of claims 1 and 2, have been canceled from this application without prejudice to Applicants' right to rejoin them at a later date or in a divisional application. However, Applicants have added new claims 33 and 34 claiming high 1,4-cis polybutadiene-polyurethane copolymer, as claimed in now-canceled claims 1 and 2, but obtained by the method of claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that, after cancellation of claims 1 and 2 and addition of new claims 33 and 34, claims 3-34 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is requested. If, upon review, the Examiner has any questions with regard to this Response or is for any reason unable to enter the amendments as presented, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's

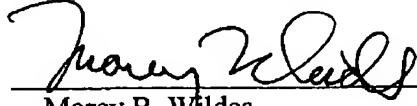
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undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues and advance the prosecution of the case.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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